

## County Profile: Warren

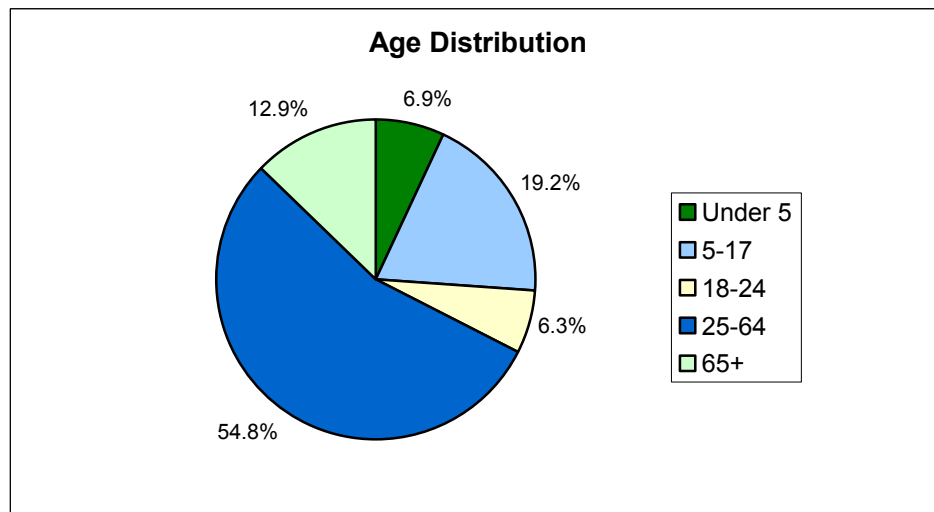


### General Demographics

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 102,437 individuals reside in Warren County's 22 municipalities. These individuals are spread out over a land area of 357.87 square miles, which translates into a population density of 286.2 persons per square mile. This makes Warren County the 19th in population of the state's 21 counties.

At 11.8%, Warren County had more growth from 1990 to 2000 than was typical for the state. While most municipalities experienced growth, the county's largest urban community, Phillipsburg (total 2000 population - 15,166), experienced a decline of 3.8% in population. Greenwich Township (total 2000 population - 4,365) more than doubled in population from 1990 to 2000. One-fourth of the county's population resides in its two largest towns, Hackettstown and Phillipsburg.

Warren County has 26,690 children under the age of 18. They comprise 26.1% of the county's total population and 1.3% of the state's child population. Approximately 61% of Warren County residents are of working age (18 through 64), and 12.9% are 65 years and older. At 37.6, the median age of Warren County residents resembles the median of 36.7 years of age for the state as a whole.



## ***Child Welfare***

Warren County's portion of statewide child abuse and neglect referrals is slightly more than the proportion of children residing in the county. While 1.3% of all children in New Jersey reside in Warren County, 1.6%, or 600 of the 38,706 child abuse and neglect referrals are generated there. The patterns of abuse and neglect resemble the state pattern. The substantiated rate and percent of substantiated referrals were less than statewide rates.

### **Child Abuse and Neglect Referrals in 2001**

	Warren County		New Jersey	
	N	%	N	%
Physical abuse	218	36.3	12,382	32.0
Emotional abuse	0	0.0	330	0.9
Sexual	36	6.0	2,179	5.6
Neglect	330	55.0	22,099	57.1
Multiple types	16	2.7	1,716	4.4
<i>Total</i>	600	---	38,706	---
Substantiated rate per 1,000 children	3.3	---	4.0	---
Percent substantiated	14.5	---	21.8	---

In the Warren County District Office, the active DYFS caseload is 677 children and 345 families. There are 66 in-state foster homes in Warren County. There are 43 Warren County children in foster care, which is 0.6% of the 7,807 children in foster care in New Jersey and less than the percentage of children residing in this county. Of the Warren County children in foster care, 41.9% reside in a different county than their family, which is slightly less than the out-of-county statewide average of 44.6%.

From 1998 to 2002, one child in Warren County died as a result of abuse and neglect out of a statewide total of 123 deaths. The status of the case with DYFS at the time of the death was unknown. The number of all infants who died in Warren County in 2000 was 6, 0.8% of the 723 infant deaths occurring in the state. The infant mortality rate of 4.5 deaths under the age of 1 per 1,000 live births was lower than the statewide rate of 6.3.<sup>1</sup>

## ***Child Welfare Outcome Measures***

Information on various child welfare outcomes for Warren County is presented in the following table. Warren County did not comply with many national standards for child welfare. Compared to the national standards, the recurrence of maltreatment in foster care is much greater and a smaller percentage of children are reunified with a parent or caretaker within 12 months. In addition, a greater percentage of children in foster care

<sup>1</sup> The Center for Health Statistics, Department of Health and Senior Services notes that rates based on fewer than 20 deaths should be interpreted with caution.

in Warren County re-enter care within 12 months of a prior placement (16.0% compared to 8.6% for the national standard) and a smaller percentage of children exit foster care for adoption within 24 months compared to the national standard.<sup>2</sup> The incidence of abuse and neglect in foster care is less than the national standard.

### 2001 Child Welfare Outcome Measures by County

	Warren	State	National Standard
Recurrence of maltreatment	19.4%	6.4%	6.1% or less
A/N incidence in foster care	0.0%	0.78%	.57% or less
Reunify within 12 months without increasing re-entry	60.0%	59.5%	76.2% or more
Re-enter care within 12 months	16.0%	8.2%	8.6% or less
Reduce time in foster care to adoption	6.3%	16.3%	32.0% or more
Increase placement stability	85.7%	86.2%	86.7% or more

Note. Data supplied by DYFS

### Definitions

**Reduce recurrence of maltreatment** – of children who were victims of substantiated or indicated child abuse and/or neglect during the first six months of the reporting period, the percentage who had another substantiated or indicated report within a six-month period.

**A/N incidence in foster care** – of children who were in foster care during the reporting period, the percentage that was the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff member.

**Reunify within 12 months without increasing re-entry** – of children reunified with parents or caretakers at time of discharge from foster care, the percentage reunified within 12 months.

**Re-enter care within 12 months** – of children who entered foster care during the reporting period, the percentage that re-entered care within 12 months of leaving foster care episode.

**Reduce time in foster care to adoption** – of all children who exited foster care to adoption, the percentage who exited within 24 months.

**Increase placement stability** – of all children who had been in foster care less than 12 months, the percentage who had no more than two placement settings during that time period.

<sup>2</sup> See definitions that follow for detailed descriptions of the categories presented in this table.

## **Data Sources**

DYFS Approved Foster Homes File, 8/4/03  
DYFS Caseload Activity Report (DAR-SISM-5), 8/1/03  
DYFS, Child Abuse and Neglect in New Jersey Statistical Report for 2000  
DYFS Child Abuse and Neglect in New Jersey Statistical Report for 2001  
DYFS Foster Care File Extract, 6/6/03  
DYFS Statewide Summary of Foster Homes (DAR-PCISM-1), 7/4/03  
NJ Substantiated Abuse and Neglect Child Fatality Analysis for 1998-2002, July 2003  
U.S. Census Bureau, Census 1990  
U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Redistricting Data Summary File, Population for the Counties and Municipalities in New Jersey: 1990 and 2000 (PL1)  
U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 1, Geographic Comparison Table, Age and Sex (GCT-P5)  
U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 1, Geographic Comparison Table, Population, Housing Units, Area and Density (GCT-PH1-R)  
U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 1, Quick Table, QT-P2.  
U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Demographic Profiles, Profile of General Demographic Characteristics (DP-1)

2/17/04